



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

frw
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/838,170	04/20/2001	Shigemi Kurashima	1614.1162	9034
21171	7590	11/01/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			NGUYEN, KIMNHUNG T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2677	

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/838,170	KURASHIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kimnhung Nguyen	2677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendment filed on 8/19/05.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This application has been examined. The claims 1-30 are pending. The examination results are as following.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hum et al. (US 6,714,133).

Regarding claims 1, 16, Hum et al. discloses in figure 1, an input system (10) comprising an information generation part which generates input information (12) based on a given input operation; a transmission part (6) substantially simultaneously transmitting a first signal and a second signals (see signals 17a-17c) generated by having a plurality of different carrier frequencies modulated with the same input information (see interrogator 12 may generate signals of different radio frequencies, see col. 8, lines 21-24, col. 10, lines 35-38); and a reception part (6) receiving the transmitted signals and demodulating (4) the signals into the same input information (12).

Regarding claims 2, 17, Hum discloses in figure 1, the input system further comprising wave direction parts (see signals 17a-17c) which are provided close to said transmission part so as to provide the signals transmitted from said transmission part with directivity.

Regarding claims 3, 15, 18 and 27, Hum discloses wherein said wave direction parts are antennas (see signals 17a-17c).

Regarding claims 4, 19, Hum discloses in fig. 1, the transmission part (6) comprises a plurality of transmission circuits (2, 4,5,7) for transmitting the signals of the different carrier frequencies as discussed above.

Regarding claims 5-6, 20-21, Hum discloses in figure 1, the transmission part (6) comprises an output part (8) which successively outputs of the different carrier frequencies and modulation part (4) as discussed above.

Regarding claim 7, Hum discloses in fig. 1, the reception part (6) comprises a plurality of reception circuits (4, 5, 7) for receiving the transmitted signals and demodulating (4) the signals into the input information (10).

Regarding claims 8-9, 22, Hum discloses the input system further comprising an inherent pad member (because input device (9) is a keypad, keyboard or another input device (see col. 6, lines 51-53) and including conductive wire (see col. 3, lines 53-56), and further comprising a conductive part (see keyboard).

Regarding claims 10, 23, Hum discloses further an inherent conductive plate member (see keyboard associated with objects such as dashboards and provide feedback to the user), and conductive part (keyboard), therefore, wherein said conductive part contacts said conductive plate member so that the signals transmitted from the transmission part are transmitted via said conductive part to the conductive plate member.

Art Unit: 2677

Regarding claim 11, Hum discloses in fig. 1, the input system comprising a plurality of wave direction parts (see signals 17a-17c) for receiving the signals transmitted from said transmission part (6), said wave direction parts being provided on a side of said reception part (6).

Regarding claims 12, 24, Hum discloses in figures 1-5, an input system comprising a transmission part (6) transmitting signals (17a-17c) generated by the same input information (10) by having a carrier frequency modulated (4) with the same input information; and a plurality of wave direction parts (see signals 17a-17c) provided close to the transmission part so as to provide the signals transmitted from said transmission part with directivity so that the same input information is transmitted alternately from the wave direction parts.

Regarding claims 13, 25, and 28-29, Hum discloses in figure 1, the input system further comprising a switching part (5) switchable between the wave direction parts (17a-17c) based on a control signal (2) supplied from information generation part so that each of the signals transmitted from the transmission part (6) is supplied to corresponding one of the wave direction.

Regarding claims 14 and 26, Hum discloses in figure 1, the transmission part (6) comprises a plurality of transmission circuits as discussed for transmitting the signal.

Regarding claim 30, Hum discloses in fig. 1, an input device, comprising an information generation part generating input information (10) based on an input operation; and a transmission part (6) substantially simultaneously transmitting the same input information by a plurality of carrier frequencies (see col. 8, lines 21-24, col. 10, lines 35-38).

Response To Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimnhung Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7698. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI, FROM 8:30 AM-5:30 PM.

Art Unit: 2677

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on (571) 272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kimnhung Nguyen
October 28, 2005

AMR A. AWAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Amr A. Awad